

Permit Summary

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region IX has proposed a Clean Air Act permit to grant conditional approval for Big West to construct and operate additional processing units within the existing Bakersfield refinery, located at 6451 Rosedale Highway. The addition of these units, as well as associated refinery modifications, is referred to as the Clean Fuels Project (CFP). The purpose of the CFP is to increase production of gasoline and diesel fuel that meets California Air Resources Board fuel specifications.

Will I Be Given the Opportunity to Comment on this Permit?

Yes, EPA is requesting written comments on the permit from all who are interested. Written comments must be postmarked or emailed by January 7, 2008, and may be submitted via email to R9airpermits_bigwest@epa.gov, or in person or by US mail to:

Kathleen Stewart (AIR-3)
U.S. EPA Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901
Phone: (415) 947-4119



Will I Be Given the Opportunity to Comment on this Permit in Person?

Yes, we will hold a Public Hearing on this permit. The Public Hearing will provide a formal opportunity for the public to comment on the project in person. EPA will not respond to questions at the Public Hearing, however, EPA will respond to the formal comments received at the hearing in a written document following the close of the public comment period on January 7, 2008. We will also hold an Open House regarding the proposal prior to the Hearing to help interested persons better understand the project.

Date: December 5, 2007
Time: Open House: 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm
Public Hearing: 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Location: Discovery Elementary School, Multipurpose Room
9500 Vaquero Ave., Bakersfield, CA 93308

What Laws and Regulations Apply to this Proposed Permit?

We have prepared this permit based on our Prevention of Significant Deterioration regulations issued under the Clean Air Act. Environmental requirements from other federal, state, or local laws are not included in this permit unless they are also part of the Clean Air Act Prevention of Significant Deterioration program. The project is required to comply with all other environmental requirements, including obtaining Non-Attainment New Source Review and Title V Operating Permits from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD), and a Conditional Use Approval by the Kern County Planning Department (KPCD) prior to construction and operation. Draft permits will be made available for public review and comment by SJVAPCD at a later date. For more information on these permits, please contact Richard Karrs, SJVAPCD, at (661) 326-6900. A draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will also be released for public review and comment by the KCPD. For more information on the EIR, please contact Cheryl Casdorff, KCPD, at 661-862-8624.

What Does this Proposed Permit Regulate?

The PSD permit will regulate emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO_x), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), and particulate matter (PM). Emissions of these pollutants must be reduced by application of the Best Available Control Technology (BACT), and must comply with the health-based National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Other pollutants will be regulated by permits to be issued by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

How Would the Proposed Permit Affect Air Quality?

EPA has reviewed the computer modeling analysis that predicts the effect of the proposed project on air quality. We believe that the project will not degrade air quality and visibility beyond limits allowed under the Clean Air Act, based on the technical information that we have reviewed to date. One important finding in our Ambient Air Quality Impact Report is that the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, and carbon monoxide will be met if this permit is approved. The results indicate that the increased concentrations from the proposed project are at or below one percent of the NAAQS, as shown below.

BIG WEST MAXIMUM PREDICTED PROJECT AIR QUALITY IMPACT

Pollutant	Averaging Period	National Ambient Air Quality Standard (ug/m3)	Maximum Predicted Impact (ug/m3)	Maximum Predicted Impact (% of NAAQS)
Nitrogen oxides	Annual	100	0.68	0.7 %
Sulfur dioxide	Annual	80	0.83	1.0 %
	3-hour	1300	10.71	0.8 %
	24-hour	365	3.37	0.9 %
Carbon monoxide	1-hour	40,000	183.42	0.5 %
	8-hour	10,000	31.38	0.3 %
Particulate Matter*	Annual	NA	0.48	NA
	24-hour		1.6	

* There is no air quality standard for particulate matter (PM). The air quality standard for PM-10 has replaced the standard for PM. PM-10 is being regulated by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

How Can I Find Out More Information About the Proposed Permit?

We have prepared the following documents that are available to help the public review this proposed project:

- Air Pollution Control Technology
- Community Involvement Process Overview
- Prevention of Significant Deterioration Permit Program Overview
- Proposed Prevention of Significant Deterioration Permit
- Statement of Basis and Ambient Air Quality Impact Report
(Includes Best Available Control Technology and air quality modeling technical evaluations)

These documents will be available at the Open House and Public Hearing, and are available on our website at:

<http://www.epa.gov/region09/air/permit/r9-permits-issued.html>

The documents are also available for viewing at the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, Southern Region Office, at 2700 M. St., Suite 275 in Bakersfield, CA.

For further information about this project please contact Kathleen Stewart, at (415) 947-4119. You may also email your questions to R9airpermits_bigwest@epa.gov.

Para información en Español, por favor comuníquese con Irma Miranda, al número (415) 972-3968 o Gerardo Rios, al número (415) 972-3974.